GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6858
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
EVALUATION OF POST HIJACK SITUATION
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Working Committee comprising Senior Officers of the Governments of Nepal and India has examined the post-hijack situation;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the present system of recognising any and every document as valid travel documents is likely to be stopped;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. During the meeting, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the JWG and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points, including the deployment of Central and State Police Forces on our side, was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

(c), (d) & (e) At the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management, the two sides also agreed to scrutinise and reduce the types of photo-identification documents that would be valid for air travel and notify each other of the revised list of such documents.